

**TRANSCRIPT OF THE PROCEEDINGS
OF THE BELTRAMI COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
April 19, 2022**

The Beltrami County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on April 19, 2022, at the County Board Room, County Administration Building, Bemidji, Minnesota.

CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Tim Sumner, called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. Commissioners Richard Anderson, Jim Lucachick, Reed Olson and Craig Gaasvig were present.

GENERAL COMMENTS - BOARD CHAIR

Commissioner Sumner made a general welcome statement to the audience.

CITIZENS ADDRESSING THE BOARD

Marty Cobenais stated that he felt the Board should look into the eligibility requirements to run for an elected office.

Monte Hammitt, 39th Street NW Bemidji, commended the Board on attention to listening to their constituents and making difficult decisions on important issues. It is a difficult task to be a public official and it important to not important decisions based on any political agendas.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

No additions or corrections were made to the agendas.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Approved Agenda and Amendments

A motion to approve the Agenda and Amendments was made by Commissioner Anderson, seconded by Commissioner Olson, and unanimously carried.

Approved Consent Agenda

A motion to approve the Consent Agenda was made by Commissioner Gaasvig, seconded by Commissioner Lucachick, and unanimously carried.

CONSENT ITEMS

Approved Minutes

The Board, by adoption of its Consent Agenda, approved the Minutes of the Board of Commissioners Work Meeting held April 5, 2022, and the Minutes of the Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting held April 5, 2022, as submitted.

Approved Auditor/Treasurer Warrant Payment Listing

The Board, by adoption of its Consent Agenda, received and approved the warrant payment listing submitted by the Auditor/Treasurer's Office.

Approved Payment of Auditor/Treasurer Bills

The Board, by adoption of its Consent Agenda, approved payment of Auditor/Treasurer bills, as submitted.

Approved New Application for Tobacco License

The Board, by adoption of its Consent Agenda, approved the New Application for Tobacco License to DG Retail LLC, DBA: Dollar General, 9200 Irvine Avenue location.

Approved Repurchase of Forfeited Property

The Board, by adoption of its Consent Agenda, approved the Resolution an Application for repurchase of forfeited property 31.00396.03 in Northern Township:

Whereas, Minnesota Statute 281.174 requires real estate property delinquent three years to be forfeited to the State of Minnesota;

Whereas, The property owner was delinquent three years on property tax payments;

Whereas, The Beltrami County Auditor-Treasurer's Office followed Minnesota Statute regarding required notifications and worked with the property owner to resolve the delinquency;

Whereas Efforts were unsuccessful and the properties forfeited to the State of Minnesota on October 26, 2020;

Whereas Minnesota Statute 282.241 allows for repurchase of forfeited properties during the year following the date of forfeiture, and in any case only after the adoption of a resolution by the board of county commissioners determining that by repurchase undue hardship.. resulting from the forfeiture will be corrected;

Whereas, The Beltrami County Board of Commissioners reviewed the application for repurchase and determined that allowing the repurchase will correct an undue hardship.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Beltrami County Board of Commissioners does hereby determine that the repurchase will correct and undue hardship, and approves the Application for Repurchase of Forfeited Lands.

Approved PILT Resolution of Support

The Board, by adoption of its Consent Agenda, approved the PILT Resolution of Support:

WHEREAS, the Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) Program passed into Minnesota law in 1979 with the statutory purpose "to address the disproportionate impact of state land ownership on local units of government with a large proportion of state land;" and

WHEREAS, 95% of all PILT acreage is located in the northern-half of Minnesota; and

WHEREAS, since 1995, nearly all PILT payment increases have gone to southern Minnesota and metro area counties; and

WHEREAS, in 1979 when PILT payments began, the biggest disparity between the highest PILT compensated county to the lowest compensated county was 8:1 or, 8 times higher, yet today that disparity has grown to a whopping 170:1 or, 170 times higher; and

WHEREAS, the principal cause PILT payments are so inequitable across MN, is because in 1995, the Acquired Acres category of PILT Payments switched from a flat rate to instead, a land value basis, yet all other major PILT Payment categories remained at a flat rate; and

WHEREAS, the Northern Counties Land Use Coordinating Board (NCLUCB) recently completed a Comprehensive Study re: State PILT and Payments to Counties which verifies all of the above-mentioned inequities; and

WHEREAS, SF 2793 (Bakk) & HF 3073 (Ecklund) have been introduced to help rectify these huge inequities in PILT Payments by substantially increasing PILT payments to Northern MN counties, including a 24.3% increase in Beltrami County; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Beltrami County hereby urges the 2022 Legislature to pass the respective Bakk-Ecklund PILT Bills through the necessary committees and include them in their final Omnibus Tax Bill.

Approved Strodman Acres Plat

The Board, by adoption of its Consent Agenda, approved the Strodman Acres Plat in Grant Valley Township, as submitted.

Approved Out-of-State Travel

The Board, by adoption of its Consent Agenda, approved the out-of-state travel to Colorado for Health & Human Services Director to attend the National Association of Counties Annual Conference in July, 2022, as submitted.

Approved PrimeWest Resolution for 2022 Procurement

The Board, by adoption of its Consent Agenda, approved the PrimeWest 2022 Procurement Resolution for Special Needs Care:

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS) has published a Request For Proposals (RFPs) to provide health care services to recipients of SNBC (Special Needs Basic Care) and MinnesotaCare in eighty (80) Minnesota counties including Beltrami County, and

WHEREAS, DHS has requested County evaluations and recommendations regarding the RFP proposals from each respective county; and

WHEREAS, PrimeWest Health submitted proposals to provide managed health care services in Beltrami County, and

WHEREAS, representatives of Beltrami County, Health & Human Services, have reviewed and evaluated the proposals; and

WHEREAS, PrimeWest Health have submitted proposals suitable to meet our needs.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Beltrami County Board of Commissioners supports the recommendation of Beltrami County Health & Human Services, approving PrimeWest Health as Managed Care Organization(s) (MCO(s) providing managed health care services for people accessing SNBC (Special Needs Basic Care) in Beltrami County.

Approved Contract with NWRDC/Dancing Sky Area Agency on Aging

The Board, by adoption of its Consent Agenda, approved the new contract for services with NWDC/Dancing Sky Area Agency on Aging, as submitted.

Approved Health & Human Services Family Child Care Licenses

The Board, by adoption of its Consent Agenda, approved the family child care licenses, as submitted.

Approved Health & Human Services Family Foster Care Licenses

The Board, by adoption of its Consent Agenda, approved the family foster care licenses, as submitted.

Approved Health & Human Services Warrant Payment List

The Board, by adoption of its Consent Agenda, received and approved the warrant payment listing submitted by Health & Human Services Department.

REGULAR AGENDA

National Therapy Animal Day Proclamation

Administrator Barry introduced Terri Mayer. Ms Mayer presented information regarding the importance of therapy animals in the daily lives of community members. She introduced her Great Dane, Layla and

talked about the work they do with Pet Partners and working with individuals in crisis.

A motion was made by Commissioner Gaasvig and seconded by Commissioner Anderson to proclaim April 30 as National Therapy Animal Day:

There are thousands of Pet Partners therapy animal teams serving in communities across the United States; and

WHEREAS, Pet Partners has designated April 30 as National Therapy Animal Day; and

WHEREAS, Pet Partners therapy animal teams in Beltrami County play an essential role in improving human health and well-being through the human-animal bond; and

WHEREAS, Pet Partners therapy animal teams make millions of visits per year in settings such as hospitals, nursing homes, schools and hospice; and

WHEREAS, Pet Partners therapy animal teams interact with a variety of people in our community including veterans, seniors, patients, students facing literacy challenges, and those approaching end of life; and

WHEREAS, these exceptional therapy animals who partner with their human companions bring comfort and healing to those in need.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tim Sumner, Board Chair of the Beltrami County Board, do hereby proclaim April 30, 2022, as:

“National Therapy Animal Day”

in the County of Beltrami, and encourage our citizens to celebrate our therapy animals and their human handlers. Further, I publicly salute the service of therapy animal teams in our community and in communities across the nation.

PROCLAIMED AND APPROVED this 19th day of April, 2022.

Countywide Redistricting

Auditor/Treasurer JoDee Treat presented a quick review of the process and stated that the goals for this meeting are to:

1. Choose a new Commissioner District Map
2. Establish Commissioner District election rotation

Several Commissioners read statements and voiced their opinions on Proposal 2 and other Map proposals and which one they felt would meet the criteria the best, in their opinion.

A motion was made by Commissioner Olson and seconded by Commissioner Sumner to choose the Proposal 2 Map for Redistricting. Motion passed 3:2 by roll call vote: Commissioners Olson, Anderson and Sumner voting Yes and Commissioners Gaasvig and Lucachick voting No.

Proposal 2 Map:

Commissioner District 1	
	Birch Township
	Blackduck City
	Brook Lake Unorganized #3
	Frohn Township
	Hagali Township
	Hines Township
	Moose Lake Township
	Port Hope Township
	Sugar Bush Township
	Summit Township
	Taylor Township
	Ten Lake Township
	Tenstrike City
	Turtle Lake Township
	Turtle River City
	Turtle River Township

Commissioner District 2	
	Bemidji City Ward 1
	Bemidji City Ward 4
	Bemidji City Ward 5

Commissioner District 3	
	Bemidji Township
	Buzzle Township
	Eckles Township
	Grant Valley Township
	Jones Township
	Lammers Township
	Liberty Township
	Solway City
	Wilton City

Commissioner District 4	
	Alaska Township
	Battle Township
	Benville Township
	Cormant Township
	Durand Township
	Funkley City
	Hamre Township
	Hornet Township
	Kelliher City
	Kelliher Township
	Langor Township
	Lee Township
	Little Rock
	Maple Ridge Township
	Minnie Township
	Nebish Township
	North Beltrami Unorganized #1
	O'Brien Township
	Ponemah
	Quiring Township
	Red Lake
	Redby
	Roosevelt Township
	Shooks Township
	Shotley Township
	Spruce Grove Township
	Steenerson Township
	Upper Red Lake Unorganized #2
	Waskish Township
	Woodrow Township

Commissioner District 5	
	Bemidji City Ward 2
	Bemidji City Ward 3
	Northern Township

A motion was made by Commissioner Lucachick to set election rotation to allow those districts required to run as a result of redistricting to have the 4 year term and those not required to run as a result of redistricting to have a two year term. Motion died for lack of a second.

A motion was made by Commissioner Gaasvig and seconded by Commissioner Olson to keep the current election rotation of District 1 & 3 election in 2022 and 2, 4 & 5 in 2024.

COMMISSIONERS' BUSINESS

Legislative/Lobbying Issues

- Commissioner Lucachick will be lobbying the Legislature to require a Super Majority vote on redistricting.

Commissioners' Reports

None.

Review Upcoming Meeting Schedule

Next regular meeting of the County Board will be May 3, 2022, in the Board Room of the County Administration Building.

MEETING ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the Board meeting at 5:43 p.m. was made by Commissioner Lucachick, seconded by Commissioner Olson, and unanimously carried.

Tim Sumner, Chair

Thomas H. Barry, County Administrator